

S Montana. Parks
333.783 Division
F2easmd [Environmental
1995 assessment for the
Spring Meadow Lake
shelter
construction

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

S 333.783 F2easmd 1995 c. 1

[Environmental assessment for the Spring



3 0864 00092759 3

**Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**



January 3, 1995

1404 8th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

DRAFT

TO: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, MT 59620
Dept. of Health & Environmental Sciences, Director's Office
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Director's Office
Parks Division
Fisheries Division
Wildlife Division
Regional Supervisor
Lands Section
Design and Construction
Legal Unit
Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office
Montana State Library
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P. O. Box 924, Helena, MT 59624
Wildlife Federation, P.O.Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624
George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624
Lewis & Clark County Commissioners, Lewis & Clark County Court House, Helena, MT 59601
Mikal Kellner Foundation, P.O. Box 389, Helena, MT 59624
Wayne Hirst, MT Parks Foundation, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the Spring Meadow Lake Picnic Shelter construction project and is submitted for your consideration.

The scope of the proposed work has been determined to be sufficient to initiate the H.B. 495 (Section 23-1-110, MCA) process. Both the Montana Environmental Policy Act and H.B. 495 report considerations are included in the following document. The Specific items required in H.B. 495 are identified on the EA checklist and addressed in the comments of those respective sections.

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

MAR 31 1995


MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
1515 E. 6th AVE.
HELENA, MONTANA 59620

PLEASE RETURN

Any questions on this project should be addressed to the undersigned. Anyone wanting a public meeting on this proposal should also contact the undersigned. Anyone wanting a public meeting on this proposal should also contact the undersigned. All comments should be forwarded by February 10, 1995.

Please note this EA replaces an earlier version that was inadvertently released for review in an incomplete format.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Sullivan".

Mike Sullivan
Helena Resource Area Parks Division
(406) 444-4720

DRAFT

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed State Action Construct permanent picnic shelter.
2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action FWP
3. Name of Project Spring Meadow Lake Picnic Shelter.
4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)
5. If Applicable:
Estimated Construction/Commencement Date 4-1-95
Estimated Completion Date 5-1-95
Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 0%
6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)

Lewis & Clark County T.10N, R.4W
7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

(a) Developed: residential __ acres industrial __ acres	(d) Floodplain __ acres
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/ Recreation . . . <u>.001</u> acres	(e) Productive: irrigated cropland __ acres dry cropland __ acres forestry __ acres rangeland __ acres other __ acres
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas __ acres	
8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.

Construction of permanent shelter for group use and park special events. Increasing requests by groups of people to use the park for various functions (i.e. family reunions, birthday parties, school outings, company picnics etc.) have highlighted the need for a shelter to accommodate larger groups.

10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits:

Agency Name _____ Permit _____ Date Filed/# _____

(b) Funding:

Agency Name _____ Funding Amount _____

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

Agency Name _____ Type of Responsibility _____

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

- Montana State Historic Preservation Office
- FWP Design and Construction Bureau

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u>	IMPACT ^o				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^o	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
▶ a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?		X				
▶ c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. <u>AIR</u>	IMPACT ^o				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^o	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
▶ a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ♦ For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		X				
f. Other _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ^o				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^o	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
► a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			X		YES	SEE BELOW
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ♦ ♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		X				
m. ♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		X				
n. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

3b. Slight drainage pattern alternation may occur due to the placement of the shelter on a concrete pad. Surface runoff can be channeled to alleviate the potential problem

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

► Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦ ♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ^o				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^o	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X			SEE BELOW
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				
f. ♦ ♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4a. Approximately 600 square feet of lawn will be removed for placement of the concrete pad.

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<p>► <u>5. FISH/WILDLIFE</u></p> <p>Will the proposed action result in:</p>	IMPACT ^o				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^o	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ♦ ♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		X				
i. ♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

<p>6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u></p> <p>Will the proposed action result in:</p>	IMPACT ^o				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^o	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?		X				
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- o Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦ ♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. <u>LAND USE</u>	IMPACT ^o				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^o	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u>	IMPACT ^o				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^o	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ♦ For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):



Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u>	IMPACT ^o				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^o	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u>	IMPACT ^o				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^o	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify: _____		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
► e. Define projected revenue sources		X				
► f. Define projected maintenance costs.		X				
g. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):



Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.



Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)



Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.



Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

▶ 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u>	IMPACT ^o				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^o	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
▶ c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		X				
d. ♦ ♦ For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u>	IMPACT ^o				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^o	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
▶ a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ♦ ♦ ♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):



Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.



Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)



Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.



Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT ^o				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^o	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ♦ For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		X				
g. ♦ ♦ For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ⚙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦ ♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

- a) A no action alternative would result in decreased sheltered recreational opportunities for special events and groups wishing to use the park.
- b) An alternative is to rent or lease tent like structure for special events that would/could require overhead protection from the elements. This method would be costly over the years and allow for some degradation of the site with impact of setting up and taking structure down. In high winds it also allows for increased liability due to higher risk of accidents with high winds, tripping over tent poles, lines, etc. It would also detract from the aesthetic nature of the site.
- c) An alternative is to have groups go to neighboring sites, other Parks. This would detract from the total group use concept of the Park.

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

N/A

4. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

NO - Scope of project is very limited. construction will take place in an area of the park that already has sustained substantial development. No additional environmental review is required.

5. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

There will be a 30 day period for public review, advertised in the Helena Independent Record Newspaper.

6. Duration of comment period if any:

January 1, 1995 to February 1, 1995.

7. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

MT Dept of FWP
Helena Resource Area Office
1404 8th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620
ATTN: Mike Sullivan
(406) 444-4720

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

**Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

1420 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, Montana 59620-0701

License To: Pete Johnson - R8


October 12, 1994

RECEIVED OCT 13 1994

Marcella Sherfy
State Historical Preservation Officer
State Historical Preservation Office
1410 8th Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620

OCT 13 1994
FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
REGION 8

Dear Marcella:

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is proposing to construct a shelter at Spring Meadow Lake State Park (see attached map). Based on this site's past use as a gravel pit and past development, we believe it is unlikely this project will impact cultural resources.

Please provide us with your comments regarding this proposed project.

Sincerely,



PAUL VALLE
Cultural Resources Coordinator
Design & Construction Bureau
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Attachment

CONCUR
NO PROPERTIES ON OR ELIGIBLE
FOR NRHP APPEAR LIKELY TO
EXIST WITHIN PROJECT IMPACT AREA
MONTANA SHPO
DATE 10/19/94 SIGNED [Signature]

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA)/HB 495
TOURISM REPORT

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by HB 495 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in its consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited. Please complete the project name and project description portions and submit this form to:

Clint Blackwood, Tourism Development Coordinator
Montana Promotion Division
Department of Commerce
1424 9th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-0533

Project Name SPRING MEADOW LAKE PICNIC SHELTER.
Project Description PERMANENT PICNIC SHELTER FOR GROUP USE

1. Would this site development project have a impact on the tourism economy?

☒ NO

☐ YES

If YES, briefly describe:

2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?

☐ NO

☒ YES

If YES, briefly describe:

*possibly more better would use the site,
and those that do may realize a higher
quality experience.*

Signature

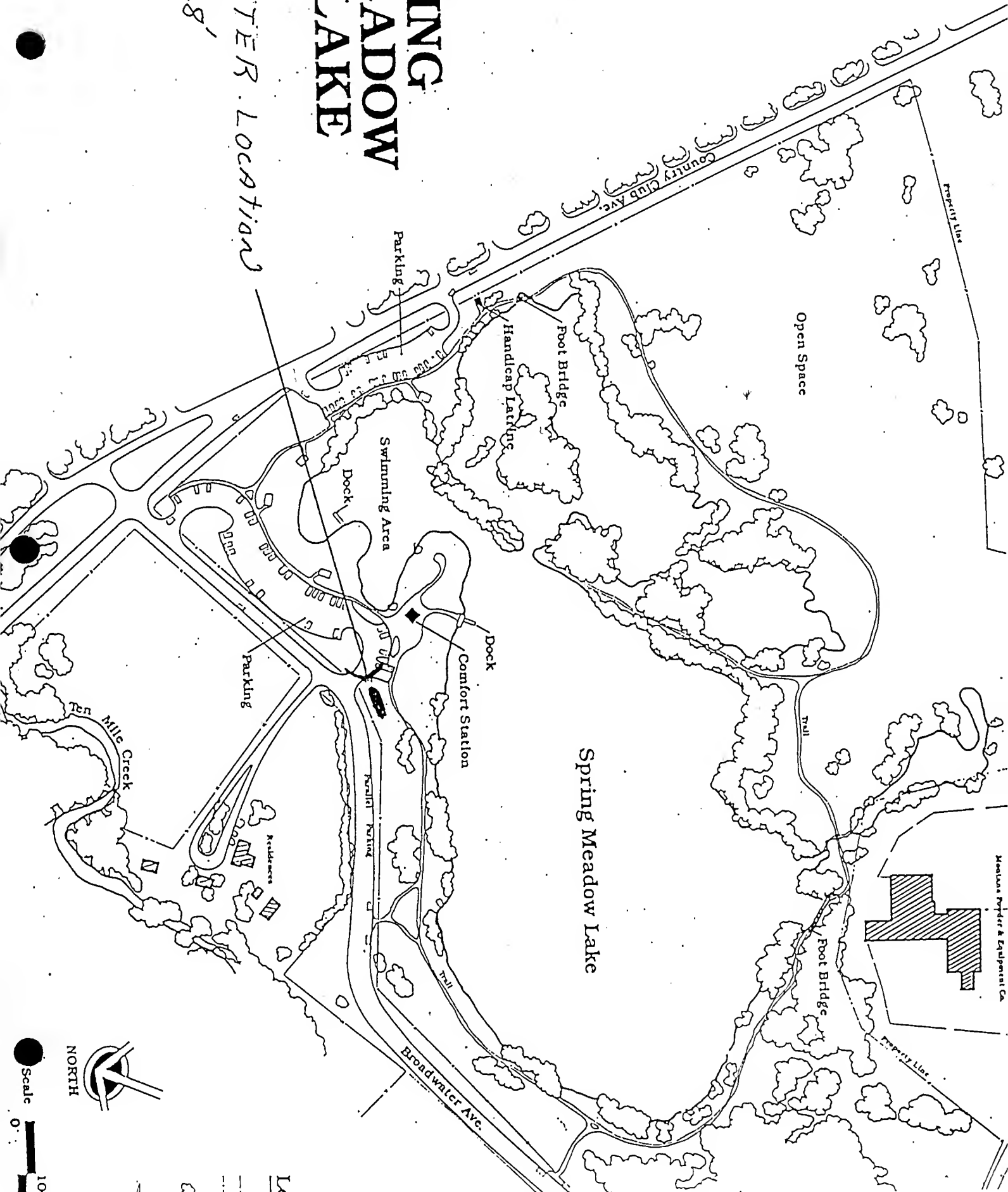
Clint Blackwood

Date

12/27/94

SPRING MEADOW LAKE

SHEETER LOCATION
20' x 28'



R.4 W.

20 000 m E.

T.11 N.

T.10 N.

51 60

51 70

46°
37'
30"

7

